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A Rugged Assignment

JOHN A. McCONE will step into one of the toughest jobs in government when he succeeds Allen W. Dulles on Nov. 1 as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Dulles for eight years did a commendable job as chief of the nation's air-flung espionage system. But with the downgrading of the CIA by the Kennedy Administration in its effort to divert blame for the Cuba fiasco, both the reputation and morale of the organization dropped to low ebb.

Mr. McCONE's first order of business will be to rebuild the CIA's prestige both in this country and abroad, not an easy assignment. The new CIA chief proved himself an able administrator during his three years as head of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In today's cold war, no agency of government is more important than the CIA.



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